

1 **Minutes 09/28/2015**

2 **Jericho Fire Services Task Force Meeting**
3 **September 28, 2015 7:00 PM**
4 **Jericho Town Hall, 67 Vermont Route 15**
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6 **Members Present:** Chris Corbin, Frank Fisler, Chuck Lacy, Matt Thomson, William Bresee
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8 **Others Present:** None
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10 The meeting was called to order by Matt Thomson at 7:00 PM
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12 **1. Public Comment**

13 No public to be heard in attendance.
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15 **2. Minutes.**

16 The revised minutes of 08/17 and the minutes of 8/31 were approved without exception.
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18 **3. Meeting Goals**

19 The task force has met with the fire department and concerned public. This meeting was to
20 focus on all of the information gathered to date and begin to organize thoughts and topics, with
21 the goal of beginning to outline the final report of the task force.
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23 **4. Panel Input**
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25 **5. Discussion**

26 In the course of determining a possible outline for the issues at hand, the following items were
27 discussed:
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- 29 • A hypothetical end-result for the task force's report could be divided into sections such
30 as: (1) Explanation of how the Department works; (2) Explanation of the financial
31 implications to the Town; (3) Department governance / leadership; (4) Relations; (5)
32 Contract; (6) Rivers Land Issues.
- 33 • While the Rivers Land Issues are not a specific charge of this task force, it is felt that this
34 cannot be ignored due to the community engagement and Town issues.
- 35 • The Department appears to be democratic and transparent, with by-laws governing the
36 organization in place.
- 37 • While a thorough investigation of the financials / budgets of the Department will be
38 conducted by this task force, the Department does have procedures in place to account
39 for dollars spent, including a budget process, a bid process, and accounting and auditing
40 processes.
- 41 • As for relations with the Town and taxpayers, it is apparent that the financial cloud
42 needs to be lifted, the Rivers property needs to be resolved, and an understanding of
43 the new leadership and management of the Department needs to be proven.
- 44 • The task force has obtained documents between the Town of Charlotte and the
45 Charlotte Fire Department that may be an appropriate template for this task force to
46 propose. Items of initial interest are financial control between the Department and the

47 Select Board as well as assets if the Department dissolves. CC and WB to contact
48 Charlotte and investigate this relationship further.

- 49 • A review of the fire department budgets for Charlotte, Hinesburg, and Richmond will be
50 conducted. WB to obtain the budgets.
- 51 • Commonly, a board of directors for an organization is comprised of members from
52 outside the operations of the organization. The question has come up as to if a board of
53 public members, at least in part, would be a more appropriate method for the
54 community and the Department to be represented and share responsibility in regards to
55 fire protection services.
- 56 • The members will begin a brain-storming process for the above potential outlined topics
57 and share them through the shared files cloud service to be prepared for further
58 discussion on these topics at the next meeting.
- 59 • Possibly an update to the Town Select Board is appropriate in the near future.

61 **6. Next Meeting**

62 The next Task Force meeting will be held 10/19 at 7:00 PM.

63 On 11/02, the Task Force will meet with the UJFD at the Underhill Station for a comprehensive
64 review of the financials and budgets. This meeting will be held at 7:00 PM.